

April 16, 2021



The Honorable Jason Crow  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1229 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Crow,

On behalf of Colorado Access, I am pleased to support Children's Hospital Colorado's (Children's Colorado) community project funding request for the **Black Health Initiative: Community-Driven Approaches to Impact African American Maternal and Infant Mortality through Peer-to-Peer Support and Simulated Education Training.**

Despite some overall improvements in access to healthcare coverage and care, disparities between African Americans and whites continue to persist across a wide range of health care outcomes. African American mothers die at three to four times the rate of non-Hispanic white mothers, and infants born to African American mothers die at twice the rate as their non-Hispanic, white counterparts, regardless of household education levels and socioeconomic status. African Americans in Colorado report higher preterm birth rates—11.6 percent, as compared to 8.2 percent among white, non-Hispanic births, further complicated by higher rates of low birth-weight babies.

Approval of this community project funding request would enable Children's Colorado to work toward meaningfully improving African American maternal and infant health outcomes through culturally responsive, community-driven simulated training for providers and peer-to-peer support for community.

Colorado Access is a proud partner to, and supporter of, Children's Colorado in their health equity focused initiatives. Colorado Access is confident that Children's Colorado has the proven ability to effectively lead and manage project implementation and fiscal oversight. Colorado Access fully supports this request and urges you to give it full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert Bremer", enclosed in a thin blue rectangular border.

Robert Bremer, MA, LPC, PhD  
Vice President of Network Strategy

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800-511-5010  
coaccess.com

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11100 E. Bethany Dr., Aurora, CO 80014

April 26, 2021

The Honorable Jason Crow  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1229 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Crow,

On behalf of Clayton Early Learning, I am pleased to support Children's Hospital Colorado's (Children's Colorado) community project funding request for the **Black Health Initiative: Community-Driven Approaches to Impact African American Maternal and Infant Mortality through Peer-to-Peer Support and Simulated Education Training**.

Despite some overall improvements in access to healthcare coverage and care, disparities between African Americans and whites continue to persist across a wide range of health care outcomes. African American mothers die at three to four times the rate of non-Hispanic white mothers, and infants born to African American mothers die at twice the rate as their non-Hispanic, white counterparts, regardless of household education levels and socioeconomic status. African Americans in Colorado report higher preterm birth rates—11.6 percent, as compared to 8.2 percent among white, non-Hispanic births, further complicated by higher rates of low birth-weight babies.

Approval of this community project funding request would enable Children's Colorado to work toward meaningfully improving African American maternal and infant health outcomes through culturally responsive, community-driven simulated training for providers and peer-to-peer support for community.

Clayton Early Learning is an innovation hub that fosters thriving, equitable communities by partnering with families to **nurture** a whole child, whole family approach to the early years, **discover** what works, and **advance** systems change. Clayton understands that a whole child, whole family approach to the early years is one of the most powerful ways to address societal inequities and create a thriving community. We support deconstructing the impact of racism in infant & maternal health and community driven solutions.

Clayton Early Learning is confident that Children's Colorado has the proven ability to effectively lead and manage project implementation and fiscal over-sight. Clayton Early Learning fully supports this request and urges you to give it full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Rebecca Crowe', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rebecca Crowe  
President & CEO, Clayton Early Learning



April 27, 2021

The Honorable Jason Crow  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1229 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Crow,

On behalf of the Colorado Children's Campaign, we are pleased to offer support to the Children's Hospital Colorado's community project funding request for the **Black Health Initiative: Community-Driven Approaches to Impact African American Maternal and Infant Mortality through Peer-to-Peer Support and Simulated Education Training.**

The Colorado Children's Campaign is a non-profit, researched based policy advocacy organization whose mission is to ensure every chance for every child. Child and family health is one of our three dedicated focus areas because we know health plays an important role in child development and overall success. Our work to promote family health involves disrupting and removing barriers, which perpetuate systemic racism and health disparities for families and children of color. Some of our specific work includes advocating for the codification of Colorado's Maternal Mortality Review Committee in state statute; aligning maternal health screenings through Medicaid with national best practices; expanding access to family planning services; and securing funding to help mitigate impacts of the family glitch and insure families without proper documentation.

Despite some overall improvements in access to healthcare coverage and care, disparities between people who are black and their white peers persist across a wide range of health care outcomes. Research shows that black mothers die at three to four times the rate of non-Hispanic white mothers, and infants born to Black mothers die at twice the rate as their non-Hispanic, white counterparts, regardless of household education levels and socioeconomic status. In Colorado, black women report higher preterm birth rates—11.6 percent, as compared to 8.2 percent among white, non-Hispanic births, further complicated by higher rates of low birth-weight babies.

Approval of this community project funding request would enable Children's Hospital Colorado to work toward meaningfully improving African American maternal and infant health outcomes through culturally responsive, community-driven training for providers and peer-to-peer support for community. Provider trainings are one important tool while we work towards a health care workforce that truly reflects the community it is serving. We have also seen positive impacts on maternal mental health from peer-to-peer models across other parts of the state and support the provision of this service in our Denver and Aurora communities.

The Colorado Children's Campaign is confident that Children's Colorado has the proven ability to effectively lead and manage project implementation and fiscal oversight. We support this request and urge you to give it full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,

Kelly Causey, Ph.D.  
President & CEO  
Colorado Children's Campaign



April 27, 2021

The Honorable Jason Crow  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1229 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Crow,

On behalf of Colorado Hospital Association (CHA), I write to express our support for the community project funding request from Children's Hospital Colorado's (Children's Colorado) for the **Black Health Initiative: Community-Driven Approaches to Impact African American Maternal and Infant Mortality through Peer-to-Peer Support and Simulated Education Training**.

Colorado Hospital Association (CHA) is the leading voice of the Colorado hospital and health system community. Representing more than 100 hospitals and health systems throughout the state, CHA serves as a trusted, credible, and reliable resource on health issues, hospital data and trends for its members, media, policymakers, and the general public. Through CHA, Colorado's hospitals and health systems work together in their shared commitment to improve health and health care in Colorado.

A vital part of that shared work is to improve the quality of health care, especially for communities that continue to suffer disproportionately from a wide range of disparate outcomes in our health care system. African American mothers die at three to four times the rate of non-Hispanic white mothers, and infants born to African American mothers die at twice the rate as their non-Hispanic, white counterparts, regardless of household education levels and socioeconomic status. African Americans in Colorado report higher preterm birth rates—11.6 percent, as compared to 8.2 percent among white, non-Hispanic births, further complicated by higher rates of low birth-weight babies.

Children's Colorado is an anchor in the Aurora community and is increasingly changing the way pediatric health care delivery works, through investments in clinical care, education, research, and the social determinants of health. Approval of this innovative community project funding request would enhance Children's Colorado's work to strengthen African American maternal and infant health outcomes through culturally responsive, community-driven simulated training for providers and peer-to-peer support for community.

Children's Colorado is a high-performing, data-driven organization with the proven ability to effectively

lead and manage project implementation and fiscal oversight on a wide range of projects to achieve great outcomes for patients, families, and the community. CHA fully supports this request, and we urge you to give it full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,

Chris Tholen, MBA  
President and CEO

April 26th, 2021

The Honorable Jason Crow  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1229 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Crow,

On behalf of Healthier Colorado, I am pleased to support Children's Hospital Colorado's (Children's Colorado) community project funding request for the **Black Health Initiative: Community-Driven Approaches to Impact African American Maternal and Infant Mortality through Peer-to-Peer Support and Simulated Education Training**.

Despite some overall improvements in access to healthcare coverage and care, disparities between African Americans and whites continue to persist across a wide range of health care outcomes. African American mothers die at three to four times the rate of non-Hispanic white mothers, and infants born to African American mothers die at twice the rate as their non-Hispanic, white counterparts, regardless of household education levels and socioeconomic status. African Americans in Colorado report higher preterm birth rates—11.6 percent, as compared to 8.2 percent among white, non-Hispanic births, further complicated by higher rates of low birth-weight babies.

Approval of this community project funding request would enable Children's Colorado to work toward meaningfully improving African American maternal and infant health outcomes through culturally responsive, community-driven simulated training for providers and peer-to-peer support for community.

Healthier Colorado is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that seeks to provide every Coloradan the opportunity to live a healthier life through policy-oriented solutions. We have supported several pieces of state legislation aimed at improving maternal and infant outcomes across our state, in particular legislation aimed at addressing the disparities that exist for African American Coloradans in regards to these outcomes. It is evident that Children's Colorado's funding request will only build upon these efforts to make our maternal and infant health outcomes more equitable for African Americans.

Healthier Colorado is confident that Children's Colorado has the proven ability to effectively lead and manage project implementation and fiscal oversight. Healthier Colorado fully supports this request and urges you to give it full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jake Williams', with a stylized, flowing script.

Jake Williams  
Executive Director  
Healthier Colorado

April 23, 2021

The Honorable Jason Crow  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1229 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC

Dear Congressman Crow,

I am writing in support of the community project funding request for the Black Health Initiative: Community-Driven Approaches to Impact African American Maternal and Infant Mortality through Peer-to-Peer Support and Simulated Education Training submitted by the Children's Hospital Colorado.

As a community advocate who had the opportunity to work with other advocates, and providers in the Education Workgroup, I saw first-hand the commitment to honoring community voice, hearing the truth of community experience in healthcare, and following the lead of those who would be served in co-creating a program that actually meets the needs of African American mothers and babies.

We as a nation are reckoning with the fact that systemic racism plagues every institution in this country from policing to healthcare, and no where is its impact more apparent than in African American infant mortality and prematurity. African American mothers die at three to four times the rate of non-Hispanic white mothers, and infants born to African American mothers die at twice the rate as their non-Hispanic, white counterparts, regardless of household education levels and socioeconomic status. African Americans in Colorado report higher preterm birth rates—11.6 percent, as compared to 8.2 percent among white, non-Hispanic births, further complicated by higher rates of low birth-weight babies.

That is why it is so compelling to me that this proposal ties Peer-to-Peer Support and Simulated Education training through the University of Colorado CAPE together, making each one essential. Participating in the CAPE directed simulations based on the lived experiences of African American mothers and babies, with providers, was a chance to see, in real-time, the unconscious bias we must all work to over-come and the collaborative relationship needed to improve care.

Too often organizations put forth proposals born out of performative community outreach, rather than substantive collaboration, and exclude community members or use them in a superficial way. In this proposal CHCO has instead chosen to honor the value of peers that African American mothers can relate to and trust, while building capacity among those peers that make this program more sustainable, and they have made the essential work of unconscious bias training and the simulations of lived experience through the CAPE integral parts of this proposal.

While this proposal seeks to benefit African American mothers and babies specifically, the results of providers who are more aware and collaborative and patients who feel validated and empowered, can exponentially improve the care of not only other marginalized populations, but patients as a whole.

I am proud to support this proposal and encourage your support of this unique approach of Peer-to-Peer Support and Simulated Education Training submitted by the Children's Hospital Colorado.

Respectfully,



Kimberly R. Brewer

April 05, 2021

The Honorable Jason Crow  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1229 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Crow,

On behalf of the University of Colorado School of Medicine and the CU Anschutz Medical Campus, we are pleased to support Children's Hospital Colorado's (Children's Colorado) community project funding request for the **Black Health Initiative: Community-Driven Approaches to Impact African American Maternal and Infant Mortality through Peer-to-Peer Support and Simulated Education Training**.

Despite some overall improvements in access to healthcare coverage and care, disparities between African Americans and whites continue to persist across a wide range of health care outcomes. African American mothers die at three to four times the rate of non-Hispanic white mothers, and infants born to African American mothers die at twice the rate as their non-Hispanic, white counterparts, regardless of household education levels and socioeconomic status. African Americans in Colorado report higher preterm birth rates—11.6 percent, as compared to 8.2 percent among white, non-Hispanic births, further complicated by higher rates of low birth-weight babies.

Approval of this community project funding request would enable Children's Colorado to work toward meaningfully improving African American maternal and infant health outcomes through culturally responsive, community-driven simulated training for providers and peer-to-peer support for community.

The mission of the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus is with innovation, agility, and excellence, we improve humanity by preventing illness, saving lives, educating health professionals and scientists, advancing science, and serving our communities. We value providing the finest team-based healthcare, science, and education in the world by being collaborative architects that respond quickly to the changing needs of society and engage and honor the community around us through lenses of diversity, equity, and inclusivity. Children's Colorado has a long-standing reputation for responding to the needs of our local, regional, and national society and engaging with communities. This project aligns with those priorities. Here on the Anschutz Medical Campus, there are students and faculty who are actively engaged in community based participatory research, and service learning projects focused on Maternal/Fetal mortality with community. Increasing positive health outcomes in collaboration with Children's Colorado and other partnering institutions and non-profit organizations is what this project will address and identify evidence-based solutions to the disparate health outcomes for this

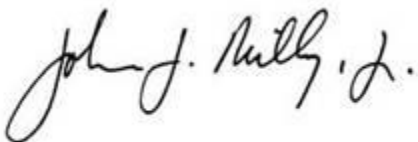


13001 E. 17<sup>th</sup> Place, MS -F573  
Aurora, CO 80045  
303-724-4537

population. This will only enhance the commitment Children's Colorado has to improving the health of the communities served.

The University of Colorado School of Medicine and the Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Community Engagement on the Anschutz Medical Campus are confident that Children's Colorado and their community partners in the work, has the proven ability to effectively lead and manage project implementation and fiscal oversight. We fully support this request and urge you to give it full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,



**John J. Reilly, Jr., MD**

Richard D. Krugman Endowed Chair  
Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs and  
Dean, School of Medicine

[John.ReillyJR@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:John.ReillyJR@cuanschutz.edu)



**Regina D. Richards, PhD, MSW** (*pronouns: she, her, hers*)

Associate Vice Chancellor of Diversity Equity Inclusion and  
Community Engagement for the Anschutz Medical Campus  
Assistant Professor, Department of Family Medicine

[Regina.Richards@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:Regina.Richards@cuanschutz.edu)

Dear Congressman Crowe:

I am writing to request that you financially support the Black Health Initiative's Peer-to-Peer and CAPE Simulation Programs. As a public health physician serving on the frontlines of the COVID pandemic, I am seeing the cost of not investing in programs designed to enhance the cultural responsiveness of health care providers and to build trust in the healthcare system for marginalized communities, which are the goals of the Peer-to-Peer and CAPE Simulation Programs.

For example, about 25% of the US population refuses to receive the COVID vaccine. This can be attributed, in part, to mistrust in the healthcare system and the lack of trusted relationships with healthcare providers - a significant problem in communities of color and LGBTQ communities. The COVID pandemic may be prolonged if these communities continue to avoid the COVID vaccine. Further, communities of color remember the Tuskegee Study and forced sterilization of Black and Brown women without their consent. LGBTQ communities recall the HIV/AIDS epidemic when the federal government refused to make HIV/AIDS research a major priority.

Let's begin a new chapter in healthcare by investing in cultural responsiveness training programs - like the CAPE Simulation Program - for all healthcare providers. Let's build trust and faith in the healthcare system for Black and Brown communities through the Peer-to-Peer Program.

Sincerely,

Sheila J. Davis, MD, MS  
State Health Chair, CO-WY-MT State NAACP Conference



April 5, 2021

The Honorable Jason Crow  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1229 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Crow:

On behalf of Families Forward Resource Center, I am please to support Children's Hospital Colorado's (Children's Colorado) community project funding request for the **Black Health Initiative: Community Driven Approaches to Impact African American Maternal and Infant Mortality through Peer-to-Peer Support and Simulated Education Training.**

Despite some overall improvements in access to healthcare coverage and care, disparities between African Americans and whites continue to persist across a wide range of health care outcomes. African Americans mothers die at three to four times the rate of non-Hispanic white mothers, and infants born to African American mothers die at twice the rate as their non-Hispanic, white counterparts, regardless of household education levels and socioeconomic status. African Americans in Colorado report higher preterm birth rates – 11.6 percent, as compared to 8.2 percent among white, non-Hispanic births, further complicated by higher rates of low birth-weight babies. Approval of this community project funding request would enable Children's Colorado to work toward meaningfully improving African American maternal and infant health outcomes through culturally responsive, community-driven simulated training for providers and peer-to-peer support for community.

Families Forward Resource Center is a full service community-based organization, and a leader in the community in fostering coordination and collaboration to advance community initiatives and increase collective impact. Our mission is to enrich entire families through partnerships and services that create safe, healthy, and connected communities. Our agency is one of 32 family resource centers in Colorado under the Family Resource Center Association, and we are the state grantee of the national Healthy Start Initiative through the Health Resource Services Administration (HRSA). Our goal through the Healthy Start Initiative is to eliminate infant and maternal health disparities among African American communities, which aligns with the goals of Children's Colorado Black Health Initiative in impacting infant and maternal health outcomes and improve healthcare access.





Families Forward Resource Center is confident that Children's Colorado, and their community partners in the work, has the proven ability to effectively lead and manage project implementation and fiscal oversight. Families Forward Resource Center fully supports this request and urges you to give it full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,

*Chanell R. Reed*

Chanell R. Reed, MPA  
Executive Director

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MONTBELLO OFFICE  
FFRC MONTBELLO OFFICE  
12000 E. 47TH AVE. #113  
DENVER, CO 80239



[WWW.FAMILIESFORWARDRC.ORG](http://WWW.FAMILIESFORWARDRC.ORG)

GREEN VALLEY RANCH OFFICE  
EVIE GARRETT DENNIS CAMPUS  
4800 TELLURIDE ST. B5-162  
DENVER, CO 80249



(303) 307-0718

AURORA OFFICE  
ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
111 DEL MAR CIRCLE  
AURORA, CO 80011



April 22, 2021

The Honorable Jason Crow  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1229 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Crow,

On behalf of Tri-County Health Department (TCHD), I am pleased to support Children's Hospital Colorado's (Children's Colorado) community project funding request for the **Black Health Initiative: Community-Driven Approaches to Impact African American Maternal and Infant Mortality through Peer-to-Peer Support and Simulated Education Training.**

Despite some overall improvements in access to healthcare coverage and care, disparities between African Americans and whites continue to persist across a wide range of health care outcomes. African American mothers die at three to four times the rate of non-Hispanic white mothers, and infants born to African American mothers die at twice the rate as their non-Hispanic white counterparts, regardless of household education levels and socioeconomic status. African Americans in Colorado report higher preterm birth rates—11.6 percent, as compared to 8.2 percent among non-Hispanic white births, further complicated by higher rates of low birth-weight babies.

Approval of this community project funding request would enable Children's Colorado to work toward improving African American maternal and infant health outcomes through meaningful and culturally responsive, community-driven simulated training for providers and peer-to-peer support for community.

Like Children's Colorado, TCHD is committed to addressing disparities through community engagement and we value collaborations such as the Black Health Initiative. Our organization serves over 1.5 million people in Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas Counties. Our mission is to promote, protect and improve the lifelong health of individuals and communities in Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas Counties through the effective use of data, evidence-based prevention strategies, leadership, advocacy, partnerships, and the promotion of health equity.

TCHD is confident that Children's Colorado and their community partners in this work, has the proven ability to effectively lead and manage project implementation and fiscal oversight. Tri-County Health Department fully supports this request and respectfully urges you to give it full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer L. Ludwig".

Jennifer L. Ludwig, MS  
Deputy Director

April 26, 2021

The Honorable Jason Crow  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1229 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Crow,

I am pleased to support Children's Hospital Colorado's (Children's Colorado) community project funding request for the **Black Health Initiative: Community-Driven Approaches to Impact African American Maternal and Infant Mortality through Peer-to-Peer Support and Simulated Education Training**.

Despite some overall improvements in access to healthcare coverage and care, disparities between African Americans and whites continue to persist across a wide range of health care outcomes. New data from 2019 show a worsening preterm birth rate for African Americans in Colorado at 12.5 percent, as compared to 8.9 percent among white, non-Hispanic births, further complicated by higher rates of low birth-weight babies. Additionally, African American mothers die at three to four times the rate of non-Hispanic white mothers, and infants born in 2019 to African American mothers perished at four times the rate as their non-Hispanic, white counterparts, regardless of household education levels and socioeconomic status.

Approval of this community project funding request would enable Children's Colorado to work toward meaningfully improving African American maternal and infant health outcomes through culturally responsive, community-driven simulated training for providers and peer-to-peer support for community.

As a public health nurse employed by the largest public health department in Colorado, Tri-County Health Department, I have had the privilege of being a member of Children's Colorado's Black Health Initiative. Their leadership has opened the path for authentic and genuine engagement of passionate leaders of the African American community and local partners such as myself who are committed to eradicating racism and systemic inequalities. My personal experience in Children's Hospital's Initiative pilot has cultivated my own journey of awareness that is being integrated into my practice as a Nurse Manager, COVID Vaccine Team member and public health nurse. **More** is needed to assure real change.

I am confident that Children's Colorado and their community partners like myself, have the proven ability to effectively lead and manage project implementation and fiscal oversight. I enthusiastically support this request and urge you to give it full and fair consideration to allow our community impact to grow.

Sincerely,



Vicki J. Swarr MSN  
Nursing Division Manager  
Tri-County Health Department